

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for facilitating negotiation of document content, the method comprising:
2 creating a database of document template content;
3 receiving commands from a first party to create a document for negotiating;
4 selecting content from said database based on receipt of said commands;
5 associating said selected content with a first document;
6 notifying a second party as to the existence of said first document;
7 receiving proposed edits to said first document based on information from said
8 second party;
9 creating a revision history based on said proposed edits;
10 associating said revision history with said document;
11 receiving proposed further edits based on information from said first party; and
12 supplementing said revision history based on said proposed further edits.

1 2. A method for facilitating negotiation of a contract, the method comprising:
2 creating a system database including a plurality of standard contract clauses;
3 receiving a command from a first user to construct a user-specific database;
4 in response to receiving a command, selecting one of said plurality of standard
5 clauses from said system database; and
6 associating said selected one of said plurality of standard clauses with said user-
7 specific database.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 receiving a command to select a contract template using said user-specific
3 database;
4 creating a proposed contract using the selected contract template; and
5 notifying a second party of the existence of said proposed contract.

1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:
2 creating a negotiation history file associated with said proposed contract;

receiving proposed edits to said proposed contract based on information from said second party;
creating a revision history based on said proposed edits; and
storing said revision history in said negotiation history file.

5. A method for operating a contracts exchange, the method comprising:
creating a standard clause database associated with the exchange;
registering a plurality of users;
creating a member database for each of said plurality of registered members;
for a first one of said plurality of registered members associating with the corresponding member database a first set of standard clauses from said standard clause database; and
for a second one of said plurality of registered members, associating with the corresponding member database a second set of standard clauses from said standard clause database;
wherein said first and said second set of standard clauses differ from one another.

6. A method for creating a contracts exchange, the method comprising:
registering a first user;
receiving, in electronic form, a first contract from said first user;
identifying a plurality of clauses in said first contract;
creating a clause database associated with said first user using the identified plurality of clauses;
registering a second user;
receiving in electronic form, a contract from said second user;
identifying a plurality of clauses in said contract from said second user; and
creating a user clause database associated with said second user using the identified plurality of clauses in said contract from said second user.

7. A method for securely maintaining contract negotiation history, the method comprising:

3 permitting a first party and a second party access to a computer-based contract
4 negotiation tool;

5 assembling a draft contract in accordance with commands from the first party;

6 presenting said draft to said second party;

7 inserting proposed revisions into said draft in accordance with commands from
8 said second party;

9 automatically creating a contract negotiation history using information related to
10 said proposed draft and said proposed revisions; and

11 storing said contract negotiation history.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said step of storing comprises protecting the stored
2 contract negotiation history from being edited.

1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein said step of storing comprises preventing revision
2 of stored contract negotiation history while permitting addenda to said stored contract
3 negotiation history.

1 10. A method for controlling an on-line negotiation process, the method comprising;
2 registering a first party and a second party for a negotiation regarding a contract
3 wherein each party comprises a plurality of users;

4 defining negotiation privileges for each of the users of said first party;

5 defining negotiation privileges for each of the users of said second party;

6 creating a proposed contract;

7 storing the contract at a contract exchange; and

8 permitting a level of access to said contract for a user commensurate with
9 negotiation privileges defined for said user.